College Deferments To Stay, Aide Says

Associated Press

Deputy Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst told Congress yesterday that President Nixon plans to eliminate college deferments as part of his reform of the draft law, but the White House promptly denied any such plan.

Kleindienst said the administration intends to apply the lottery system of selecting draftees "across the board" when the change is made next year.

Congress has given Mr. Nixon the power to switch to a lottery system, but in requesting the authority the President did not say he would abolish college deferments. In fact, his draft message last May called for continuing them.

Kleindienst referred to the coming change in the system during testimony before a House Judiciary subcommittee on a bill calling for the creation of additional federal judgeships.

Citing "the attitude of young people today," Kleindienst said resistance to the draft could be expected to continue even under a lottery system.

"If it takes a young man who otherwise would have gone to college, it could lead to an increase in violations," he said.

Asked by newsmen after the hearing whether his reply meant college deferments would be eliminated under the lottery system, Kleindienst said "That is my understanding."

Gerald L. Warren, deputy press secretary to the President, said after being informed of Kleindienst's comment he knew of no change in previously announced plans to retain student deferments in therevision of Selective Service procedures planned by the administration.